

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend Claims 1, 11, 16, 26, 31, and 41, by replacing them with the following Rewritten Claims. A copy of the Marked-up Claims is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

Rewritten Claims

1. (Once Amended) A balloon dilation catheter comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;

an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member;

a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire along a portion of its length, the second lumen having a first opening in the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member;

a slit-forming region disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit-forming region causing formation of a first slit as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen

an adapter disposed at the proximal end of said tubular member; and

an adapter slit disposed in said adapter to permit separation of the guidewire from the adapter, said adapter slit being narrower than an outside diameter of the guidewire throughout the length of the adapter.

11. (Once Amended) The balloon dilation catheter defined in claim 1, wherein the slit-forming region extends along a portion of the length of the tubular member to a location proximal the balloon.

16. (Once Amended) A catheterization kit comprising:
a guide catheter;
a guide wire; and
a balloon dilation catheter comprising:
a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;
an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member; a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire along at least a portion of its length, the second lumen having a first opening in the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member;

a slit-forming region disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit-forming region causing formation of a first slit as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen;

an adapter disposed at the proximal end of said tubular member; and

an adapter slit disposed in said adapter to permit separation of the guidewire from the adapter, said adapter slit being narrower than an outside diameter of the guidewire throughout the length of the adapter.

26. (Once Amended) The catheterization kit defined in claim 16, wherein the slit-forming region extends along a portion of the length of the tubular member to a location proximal the balloon.

31. (Once Amended) A stent-mounted balloon catheter comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;
an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member;

a stent mounted on the inflatable balloon;

a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire along at least a portion of its length, the second lumen having a first opening in the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member; [and]

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a slit-forming region disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit-forming region causing formation of a first slit as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen;

an adapter disposed at the proximal end of said tubular member; and

an adapter slit disposed in said adapter to permit separation of the guidewire from the adapter, said adapter slit being narrower than an outside diameter of the guidewire throughout the length of the adapter.

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41. (Once Amended) The balloon catheter defined in claim 31, wherein the slit-forming region extends along a portion of the length of the tubular member to a location proximal the balloon.

Kindly add new Claims 46-59 as follows:

--46. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 1, wherein said adapter slit consists of a straight slit throughout the length of said adapter.

47. A stent-mounted balloon catheter comprising:

a tube having a proximal end and a distal end;

a balloon disposed at the distal end of the tube;

a stent mounted on the balloon;

a first lumen disposed in the tube and in communication with an interior of the balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tube configured for receiving a guidewire along the length of the second lumen, the second lumen having a first opening at the proximal end of the tube and a second opening at the distal end of the tube;

a slit-forming region disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit-forming region causing formation of a first slit as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen;

an adapter connected to the proximal end of said tube;
and

an adapter slit disposed in said adapter to permit separation of the guidewire from the adapter through the adapter

slit, said adapter consisting of a straight slit throughout length of said adapter.

48. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 47, wherein said adapter slit is narrower than an outside diameter of the guidewire.

49. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 47, wherein said adapter slit is as narrower as said first slit.

50. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 47, wherein , wherein the balloon has a second slit in substantial alignment with the first slit.

51. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 47, wherein , wherein the tube is constructed from plastic material having various densities to provide a decreasing stiffness from the proximal end to the distal end.

52. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 47, wherein said first slit extends from the first opening along the length of the tube to a location proximal the balloon.

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for

53. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 47, further comprising a third lumen disposed in said tube between the first and second lumens, a stiffening member being disposed in at least a portion of said third lumen.

54. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 47, wherein said adapter comprises:

a guidewire branch; and

an inflation branched angled with respect to said guidewire branch.

55. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 47, wherein said adapter has at least two sections with different diameters.

56. (New) A stent-mounted balloon catheter comprising:
a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;
an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member;

a stent mounted on the inflatable balloon;

a first lumen disposed in the tubular member and in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon;

a second lumen disposed in the tubular member for receiving a guidewire along at least a portion of its length, the second lumen having a first opening at the proximal end of the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member;

a slit-forming region disposed longitudinally in the tubular member and extending along at least a portion of the tubular member, the slit-forming region causing formation of a first slit as the guidewire is separated from the second lumen;

an adapter disposed at the proximal end of said tubular member; and

an adapter slit disposed in said adapter to permit separation of the guidewire from the adapter, said adapter slit being narrower than an outside diameter of the guidewire throughout the length of the adapter, said adapter slit consisting of a straight slit throughout the length of said adapter.

57. (New) The balloon catheter defined in claim 56, wherein said adapter slit is as narrower as said first slit.

58. (New) ~~The balloon catheter defined in claim 56, wherein the inflatable balloon has a second slit in substantial alignment with the first slit.~~